

City of Norman Bicycle Advisory Committee
Minutes for January 2012 Meeting
January 9, 2012 6:30 pm
City of Norman Municipal Complex
201 West Gray, Study Session Room

1. Roll Call—6:34 p.m.

- Members present: Gary Miller, John Joyce, Tobin Vigil, Sarah Ellis, Helen Robertson
- Ex-officio members present: Angelo Lombardo, James Briggs
- Guest: Chief Keith Humphrey

2. Approval of December 2011 meeting minutes

Minutes were accepted and approved.

3. Agenda

A. Discussion with Keith Humphrey, Chief of Police

Gary welcomed Chief Humphrey to the meeting and thanked him for coming. Gary explained the history of the committee and the role it has played in recent years. Chief Humphrey has noted that he has met avid cyclists in the community and he has been invited by Joe Foote to accompany him on a ride to see what is positive and negative about being a cyclist in Norman. The Chief asked if since gas prices have been up if bicycle commuting has risen. Tobin responded yes, noting his business is now 30% commuters. Chief Humphrey asked if we had tracked the number of accidents. Angelo told him yes; his office had done so, and noted which areas seemed to be hotspots. The Chief stated the most recent statistics from his office show a significant decrease in accidents in 2011. James spoke of the sense of animosity towards cyclists from drivers, especially on the east side where large rides tend to take place. Humphrey stated we needed more education, as the average citizen doesn't realize bikes have the same rights as cars. Chief Humphrey informed the committee that he has been challenged by the City manager to be more proactive on education and information. He would like to work with the committee with respect to getting information out to the citizens. He asked the committee to be in contact with his Public Information Officer (PIO) Tom Easily. Humphrey was asked about targeted enforcement of bicyclists, in an effort to remind cyclists of their responsibilities. Humphrey stated his officers needed more information on this aspect. He invited a member of the committee to speak to the officers at roll call. Tobin volunteered. The Chief recommended talking for about 10 minutes and to use a PowerPoint presentation. The committee agreed to work next month on creating a set of talking points for Tobin. Chief Humphrey ended his visit by stating his goal was to be proactive, work with the community and to keep lines of communication open. He stated he would try to have an officer routinely attend committee meetings and he would get back to us on the enforcement policy on electric bikes.

B. Additional Bike Lane Striping

Angelo ordered a map with roads with both a 35' width and parking restrictions. He would like to have another more time to take a closer look at it, but it seems there isn't much overlap. The committee can email him anytime this month with suggested roads.

Angelo noted current bike lane striping should be done by next month.

C. Urban Trail System update

Tobin visited the Saxon site and noted that it looked great for runners, but he has concerns about the integration of runners and cyclists.

James isn't sure Tobin realizes the scope of the park and will bring a plan to Tobin this month.

D. Earth Day

John will meet with Suzanne Terry to coordinate bike activities.

E. E-bikes

No information from the Chief of Police. It was suggested that someone from legal could be the guest at next month's meeting.

F. ACOG and Edmond Bicycle Plan

Angelo attended the ACOG meeting and noted there was quite a lot of discussion regarding the bike meeting in November 2011. There was talk of making it an every-other-year event and of bringing in a representative from the League of American Bicyclists to help with preparing to apply for bike-friendly status.

The City of Edmond Bike Plan is still in the beginning stages.

G. City of Norman

James noted we still have an open position on the BAC and encouraged committee members to spread the word. The committee realized Tom needed to be renewed as a committee member.

H. Rework of the Norman Bike Plan

John stated the subcommittee was not able to meet over the holidays.

Angelo noted that cycling came up during the transportation master plan ward meetings. He suggested we advocate for a reworking of the bike master plan be part of the new transportation master plan. John was told the subcommittee that they should look at all issues relating to the current master plan.

I. Other Status Reports

Enforcement—covered with Chief Humphrey's visit.

Education—nothing new to report.

OU—Paul Minnis absent; no report.

BLN—Allicia Boscarelli absent; no report.

4. New Business.

No New Business

5. Adjournment